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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

THE FEED GRAIN PROGRAM 1964

The 1964 Feed Grain Program is basically the same as in 1963:

- It is voluntary.
- It combines corn, grain sorghum, and barley in a single base.
- Participating farmers will qualify for diverted-acre payments and price-support payments, and they will be eligible for price-support loans.

In some respects the 1964 program is an improvement over the 1963 program:

- The maximum feed grain acreage which may be diverted on a farm has been raised to 50 percent (from 40 percent) of the base.
- The average payment rate per acre for diverting 40 percent or more also will be substantially higher than in 1963.

The program will exert a stabilizing influence on feed grain prices, shield both wheat and feed grain producers from the effects of possible larger 1964 wheat plantings, and continue the substantial progress toward our national goal of around a 45-million-ton feed grain carryover. More than a million farmers participated in the 1961, 1962, and 1963 programs and reduced feed grain carryover stocks from 85 million tons down to about 60 million tons.

PARTICIPATION CHOICES

Each feed grain producer who takes part may choose the eligible cropland to come out of feed production and go into conserving uses. To meet the needs of most farmers, the program provides a range in the acreage which may be diverted:

1. The **smallest** acreage of cropland that can be diverted for payment is 20 percent of the feed grain base for the farm.
2. The **largest** acreage on which payment can be made for diversion is 50 percent of the farm's feed grain base, or 25 acres if this is more than 50 percent of the base. How-

ever, payment will not be made on more acres than are in the base. (In 1963 the maximum acreage that could be diverted for payment was the larger of 40 percent of the base or 25 acres.)

FARM FEED GRAIN BASE

Feed grain bases have been figured by the same method used in 1963—based on the average number of acres on which feed grains were produced in 1959 and 1960. The feed grain acreage for a farm includes corn, barley, and grain sorghum. The farm feed grain base established by the ASC county committee and furnished to each producer is the starting point in figuring the diverted acres.

On farms that produce more than one of the feed grains—barley and corn, for example—the total feed grain base will include a corn base and a barley base. On such farms the operator may choose to divert acreage from either barley or corn, or to divert part of the acreage from barley and part from corn. The diversion payment rate will be based on the kind or kinds of feed grain crops from which acreage is actually diverted on the farm.

DIVERSION PAYMENT

There are two diversion-payment rates. Either one or both of the per-acre rates may be used in figuring diversion payments. The lower rate, which applies to the first 20 percent of the feed grain base diverted, will be the normal yield for the farm times one-fifth the county total support rate (price-support loan rate plus the price-support payment rate).

The higher rate applies to acreage in excess of 20 percent and will be the normal yield for the farm times one-half the county support rate.

The higher rate applies to the entire acreage diverted if the total diverted is equal to at least 40 percent of the base.

For example, on a farm with a base of 100 acres, if 30 acres are diverted, 20 acres will be paid for at the lower rate, 10 acres at the higher rate. If 40 acres are diverted, the entire diversion payment will be at the higher rate.

A new provision of the law requires that diversion payments or price-support payments not exceed 20 percent of the value of the cropland diverted.

ADVANCE PAYMENTS

Advance payments for diversion will be available upon request when the application is signed. Final diversion payments and price-support payments will be made in the late summer or fall.

NATIONAL AVERAGE SUPPORT RATES

The national average price-support rate for each of the three feed grains for 1964 is made up of an average price-support loan rate and a price-support payment. As in the 1963 program, the national average loan rate is used to establish a separate loan rate for each county. The price-support payment for each of the three feed grains will be the same amount per bushel or per hundredweight for all counties. The national average support loan rates and the price-support payment rates for the feed grains covered by the program are as follows:

	<i>Loan Rate</i>	<i>Price- Support Payment</i>	<i>Total Support</i>
Corn (per bu.)	\$1.10	\$0.15	\$1.25
Barley (per bu.)	0.84	0.12	0.96
Grain Sorghum (per cwt.)	1.77	0.23	2.00

ELIGIBILITY FOR PRICE SUPPORT AND PAYMENTS

Eligibility for diversion payments and price support is conditioned upon maintenance of the normal acreage (1959-60 average) in conserving uses or practices, including summer fallow and idle land on the farm. As in 1963, the acreage diverted from feed grains and devoted to conservation uses in 1964 will be in addition to the normal conserving base acreage for the farm.

STATE AND COUNTY YIELDS

A new provision of law for determining average yields for figuring payments requires that county and farm yields for the 1964 program be based on a 4-year average—1959 through 1962. A 2-year average of 1959 and 1960 was used in previous feed grain programs.

SUBSTITUTE CROPS

Under some circumstances, guar, sesame, safflower, sunflower, castor beans, and mustard seed may be grown on diverted acres with reductions in the diversion rates of payment which would otherwise be made (but no diversion payment will be made on diverted acreage planted to safflower).

PRODUCERS WITH MORE THAN ONE FARM

A producer with an interest in the feed grain crops on more than one farm may limit his participation to one farm. However, planting in excess of the feed grain base on any of his farms will disqualify a producer for feed grain payments and price supports on all his farms.

COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Staying within the farm acreage allotments for other crops is not a requirement for participation in the feed grain program. However, planting additional acreage to other crops, such as wheat, could result in failure to maintain the farm's normal conservation-use acreage, including summer fallow and idle cropland. This would make the farm ineligible for diversion payments and price support on the feed grains.

CONSERVING BASE AND INTENTIONS

The ASC county committee will establish a normal acreage of conserving use for each farm. That acreage is called the conserving base for the farm. Acreage diverted from feed grains is to be used for conservation and is to be in addition to the farm's conserving base.

The program provides for diversion payments, price-support payments, and eligibility for price-support loans only to those participants who comply with the intentions shown on their signup papers and who do not exceed the feed grain base on any of their other farms.

SIGNUP PERIOD

The signup period begins Monday, February 10, 1964, and ends Friday, March 27, 1964.

For additional details, see your ASC county committee.